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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*):  
**ACOLYTE BIOMEDICA LIMITED** [GB/GB]; Enterprise House, Cherry Orchard Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7LD (GB).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): **O'HARA, Stephen** [GB/GB]; Acolyte Biomedica Limited, Enterprise House, Cherry Orchard Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7LD (GB).

(74) Agents: **MARSHALL, Cameron, John et al.**; Carpmaels & Ransford, 43-45 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2RA (GB).

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(54) Title: USING NUCLEIC ACIDS FOR CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY TESTING

(57) Abstract: A process for analysing a biological sample, comprising the steps of: (a) identifying a micro-organism present within the sample; and (b) determining the effect of one or more antimicrobial(s) on a micro-organism from the sample, wherein steps (a) and (b) are performed by analysing the micro-organism's nucleic acid. Steps (a) and (b) will generally occur in that order, but they may take place concurrently. The steps may advantageously be performed within a single apparatus. Conveniently, the nucleic acid analyte used for step (a) is the same as that used in step (b) *e.g.* the same PCR amplicon. A micro-organism's nucleic acids can thus be used both to identify the presence of the micro-organism within a sample and then to assess the effect of antimicrobials on its growth.

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